

January 31, 2003

Joan LeMarbre
Adult and Community Learning Services
Mass. Dept of Education
350 Main St.
Malden, MA

Re: Boston's Draft AEL Comprehensive Community Assessment Report

Dear Joan:

Attached please find the draft Adult Education and Literacy Comprehensive Community Assessment of Boston, submitted by the Boston Adult Literacy Initiative (ALI). Navin Associates, under the guidance and supervision of the ALI's Community Planning Advisory Committee, coordinated Boston's community planning efforts and wrote the citywide section of this report, under a contract with the Mayor's Office of Jobs and Community Services.

This report is primarily a summary report of fourteen comprehensive community assessments of fifteen neighborhoods of Boston, supplemented by citywide secondary data and four citywide surveys of adult education and literacy providers and staff.

Fourteen local community coalitions analyzed comprehensive secondary data and conducted original research about fifteen neighborhoods. In all, approximately sixty focus groups, ten surveys, and nine key informant interviews were conducted by local coalitions. This data-gathering and analysis led to the development of local key findings, conclusions, and implications for service planning that already are informing strategic planning efforts at the neighborhood level. The fourteen individual neighborhood coalition assessment reports are included as Appendix VII of this report.

Every local coalition also was involved in the development of the citywide component of this report. Representatives of the fourteen coalitions signed this report to confirm that their coalitions/partnerships had contributed to, reviewed, and unanimously endorsed the key

findings and conclusions of this draft Adult Education and Literacy Comprehensive Community Assessment of Boston, as did the Adult Literacy Resource Institute and the Community Planning Advisory Committee of ALI.

Additional stakeholders will be invited to review, comment on, and endorse this draft after its approval by your office, as part of the transition to citywide strategic planning.

Joan, on behalf of the Boston Adult Literacy Initiative that is submitting this Assessment Report, and Navin Associates, thank you for your valuable technical assistance and encouragement throughout this process. We look forward to your assistance with developing a strategic plan for Boston and its neighborhoods that is based upon this report.

Sincerely,

P. Christopher Navin, Ed.D.
Principal